



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

WATER LEVEL BULLETIN

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Flood Outlook Statement

Flood Outlook Statement – Lake Ontario

A ***Flood Outlook Statement*** is issued to ***raise awareness***. Based on weather forecasts for heavy rain, snowmelt, high wind or other conditions, ***a change in conditions on local waterways is possible***.

DATE: April 27, 2017

TIME: 10:30 AM

ISSUED TO: Municipalities (Alnwick/Haldimand, Cramahe, Brighton & Quinte West)), Northumberland & Hastings Counties, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, Media, Health Units, Emergency Response Agencies

MESSAGE #: LTC – 17 – 09

Valid until Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Lower Trent Conservation advises municipalities and the public that a **Flood Outlook Statement** has been issued for the **Lake Ontario and Bay of Quinte shoreline from Grafton to Quinte West**. Residents along the shoreline should be aware of the potential for erosion and flooding.

A rise in Lake Ontario water levels over the past few months has moved the lake to above normal levels for this time of year. The lake level measured at Cobourg is approximately 75.5 metres above sea level which is 60 centimetres above the long term average for April. It is 40 centimetres higher than it was at this time last year.

There is the potential for additional flooding and erosion damages during strong storm events as lake setup and high waves result in greater fluctuations in water levels. Wind set-up is caused when strong winds blowing over the lake surface 'push' water to the down-wind shoreline. The biggest threat from storm surges along Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte come from strong onshore winds. During periods of strong winds, shoreline residents should be aware that water levels can rise or fall significantly in a short period of time.

Residents should ensure personal property (boats, docks, etc.) along the shoreline is secured. Property owners are also reminded that any work along the shoreline (e.g. placement of fill, armour stone, etc.) will require a permit from Lower Trent Conservation and should call the office or visit the website for more information.

Water levels on the Great Lakes naturally vary, responding monthly, seasonally and annually to a variety of factors. Water levels are primarily influenced by natural factors, including precipitation, evaporation, winds, runoff from rivers or streams and inflow from upstream Great Lakes. The Moses-Saunders Dam, approved by the International Joint Commission in the 1950's, also provides some control over water levels and flows.

Lake Ontario typically reaches its seasonal high water level in June. Residents living along Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte should expect further increases in water levels for at least the next month.

Lower Trent Conservation will be monitoring marine forecasts closely and will provide updates as conditions warrant. Anyone who experiences flooding or erosion problems should contact Lower Trent Conservation at (613) 394-4829.

For more information contact:

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